Afforestation programmes

1133. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether renewed efforts have been undertaken to speeden the afforestation programmes to counter the effects of climate change in the country;

(b) if so, the number of new saplings that would be planted, State-wise, and the financial outlays earmarked for the purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether the utilization of funds for the purpose by the States is being monitored/reviewed by Government; and

(d) if so, which of all States registered under utilization of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes Sir. Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Government, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted as one of the eight missions of *inter-alia* help counter the effects of climate change through forestation programmes.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Report of international panel on climate change

1134. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government his received a report from International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);

(b) if so, the complete details thereof and action taken by Government on the report;

(c) whether according to the report there is some evidence to show loss of human life due to climate changes; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government on this recommendation of IPCC report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has published Fourth Assessment Report – "Climate Change–2007". The Report includes assessment of information on physical science; impact, adaptation and vulnerability; and mitigation of climate change. The assessment report was prepared based on assessment of peer reviewed published current literature worldwide. This report provides latest understanding on the above mentioned aspects on climate change.

(c) and (d) The assessment pertaining to vulnerability to projected climate change and record of observed changes in the climate parameters at the continental/sub-continental level. However, there is no substantial evidence to show the loss of human life due to human induced

climate change. The information in the IPCC report are not prescriptive and are only policy relevant. The reports are utilized by the Member countries in the context of their national circumstances.

Mangroves in the country

1135. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mangroves are on the decrease in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the decrease affect environmental degradation;

(d) whether there is any plan to protect the mangroves in the country;

(e) whether Government of Kerala submitted proposal for the conservation of mangroves in Vembanad and Kannur region; and

(f) if so, the details along with the action taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per the State of Forest Report 2005, published by Forest Survey of India, the mangrove cover of the country which was 4448 km2 in 2003, has reduced to 4445 km2 in 2005 *i.e.* there has been a marginal decrease of 3 sq. km. During the same period, there was an increase in the mangrove areas in Gujarat from 916 sq. km. to 936 sq. km. to 936 sq. km. However, there was reduction in the area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 658 sq. km. to 637 sq. km. and in West Bengal from 2120 sq. km. to 2118 sq. km. This is mainly because of the tsunami that hit Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 26 December, 2004. Gujarat has shown an increase in mangrove cover mainly because of plantation and protection measures. Mangroves play an important role in coastal ecology, and protecting the coastal areas from the impact of tidal waves but the extent of protection is variable and is a function of several factors.

(d) The mangroves are protected through a range of regulatory measures such as Environment Protection Act (1986), the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (1991) issued under the said Act, the Indian Forest Act (1927) and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The protection of mangroves is also ensured through the monitoring of compliance of conditions imposed while according Environmental Clearance by Regional offices of the Ministry and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and through the enforcement of emission and effluent standards by industries and other entities by the SPCBs.

(e) and (f) The Ministry and sanctioned the Management Action Plan (MAP) for conservation and management of mangroves in Kannur, Kerala at a total cost of Rs. 49.21/- lakh and that for Vembanad mangroves for Rs.51.25/- lakh for implementation by the State Government during 2006-07. Based on the Utilization Certificates submitted by Government of Kerala, an unspent balance of Rs.11.52/- lakh has been carried forward from previous to the current financial year for completing the balance works of the MAP of 2006-07 for